

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CTME-00 ITC-01 L-03 EB-08

CA-01 SCS-06 H-02 INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00

SS-15 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02

INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05

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INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CA, US

SUBJECT: MINISTER JAMIESON REJECTS ANY CONNECTION

BETWEEN FISH TARIFF QUESTION AND FISHERIES AGREEMENT
SUSPENSION

1. IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD JUNE 8, DURING THE COURSE OF A LINE OF QUESTIONING CONCERNING THE 1978 INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT SUSPENSION, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MEMBER JOHN C. CROSBIE (ST. JOHN'S WEST) INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION BY THE U.S. THIS BROUGHT A HEATED RESPONSE FROM MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DON JAMIESON WHO ADMONISHED HIM NOT TO DRAW ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FISH TARIFF QUESTION AND THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. TEXT OF JAMIESON'S RESPONSE, AND SUBSEQUENT EXCHANGE WITH CROSBIE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. JAMIESON: I WANT TO ADMONISH THE HON. MEMBER, AS
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I HAVE DONE IN THE HOUSE IN THE PAST, TO PLEASE--IF HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY CONCERN FOR THE GOVERNMENT, HE SHOULD FOR HIS FELLOW NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN--KEEP AS MUCH DISTANCE AS HE POSSIBLY CAN BETWEEN THE BOUNDARY ISSUE AND THE QUESTION OF TARIFFS.

"I HAVE MADE EFFORTS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF HON. MEMBERS

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE, TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF BRINGING THESE TWO ISSUES INTO SOME CONJUNCTION SO THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT IT NOT BE SEEN THAT THIS BOUNDARY DISPUTE IN ANY WAY REFLECTS ON ANY TARIFF ISSUES WHICH MAY BE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. I AGAIN EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE FACT THAT IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF TWO NIGHTS AGO, THIS ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED; AND I UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NOT RAISED.

"I SAID TO THE HON. MEMBER IN THE HOUSE A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN HE RAISED THIS MATTER, THAT I WAS AWARE THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENT ISSUE, WHICH HAS BEEN LONG-STANDING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, ON THE QUESTION OF TARIFFS. I AM IN THE PROCESS THIS DAY OF HAVING DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THIS SITUATION. I SPOKE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AT 6.15 LAST EVENING AND MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO QUESTIONS, AND I HAD CONFIRMATION FROM HIM THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEPARATE THE TWO. IF THE HON. MEMBER IS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN AS MUCH AS I AM, HE WILL STOP TRYING TO MAKE THIS CONNECTION.

"MR. CROSBIE: MR. SPEAKER, A FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION. DOES THE MINISTER REALIZE THAT WHAT HE HAS JUST SAID ILLUSTRATES HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS TO NEWFOUNDLAND? WHILE HE MAY KEEP IT SEPARATE IN HIS MIND, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE TO. OTHER PEOPLE WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY HIS ACTIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED. IS THE MINISTER SAYING THAT THERE ARE GOING TO BE NO COUNTERVAILING DUTIES IMPOSED ON FISH PRODUCTS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND AS A RESULT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE UNITED STATES? IS THAT HIS STATEMENT?

"MR. JAMIESON: MR. SPEAKER, I COULD GIVE THE HON. MEMBER THAT ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE AS OF THIS MOMENT IF HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT ME IN TRYING TO AVOID A REDUCTION OF 2 CENTS PER POUND TO NEWFOUNDLAND INSHORE FISHERMEN FOR THE REST OF THIS FISHING SEASON. THAT IS WHAT IS AT ISSUE. I CAN MEET THE UNITED STATES CLEAR ACROSS THE BOARD AND GET MANY PLAUDITS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION. THE NEED FOR ME TO DO THAT, HOWEVER, IS VERY MUCH CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THE FACT THAT I AM CONSCIOUS THAT WE HAVE SAID WE WILL PAY THE INSHORE FISHERMEN OF NEW-

FOUNDLAND A TWO-CENT SUBSIDY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE
DAFISHIB SEASON.

"THE THING I AM TRYING TO NEGOTIATE IS THAT IF I ASSURE
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE SUBSIDY WILL BE
ENDED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND WILL NOT CONTINUE,
WILL THEY THEN REFRAIN FROM TAKING COUNTERVAILING
ACTION? I CANNOT BE SURE THAT THEY WILL DO THAT, OF
COURSE. I WOULD BE A FOOL AND I WOULD ALSO BE UNFAIR
TO THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN IF I WERE TO SAY AT THIS
TIME TO THE UNITED STATES THAT I WILL STOP THE TWO-CENT
PAYMENT TO NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN. IF THE HON. MEMBER
WANTS ME TO DO THAT, LET HIM SAY SO NOW AND WE CAN GET
THE WHOLE MATTER RESOLVED WITHIN 24 HOURS." DUEMLING
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